

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 03244 171323Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 IO-13 NSC-05
NEAE-00 /053 W

-----066310 171354Z /45S

P R 171130Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T SANA 3244

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE
SUBJECT: YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ON PLO ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION
NO. 242

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 192560; (B) SECTO 08170

BEGIN SUMMARY: YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ OFFERS LEND
WEIGHT TO FORMULA FOR PLO ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 17, CHARGE SAW YAR FOREIGN MINISTER
ABDULLAH AL-ASNAJ TO CONVEY INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTELS. AL-ASNAJ
FOLLOWED MY PRESENTATION VERY CAREFULLY, PARTICULARLY IN
SECTIONS WHICH DEALT WITH POSSIBLE PLO ACCEPTANCE OF
RESOLUTION 242. IN CONCLUSION I SAID WE HOPED NOT ONLY
FOR UNDERSTANDING OF YARG FOR OUR EFFORTS BUT SUCH SUPPORT
AS MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE YAR TO EXERCISE IN ARAB CIRCLES.

2. ASNAJ SAID THAT HE THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE FULL
AND COMPLETE BRIEFING AND WAS GRATEFUL TO THE UNITED STATES
FOR UNDERTAKING THIS EFFORT. WHILE NOT COMMITTING
HIMSELF EXACTLY TO OUR POSITION ON PLO
ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242 AND THE RIGHT OF
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ISRAEL TO EXIST, ALL IN A MANNER THAT CLEARLY
REFLECTED CHANGE IN PLO POLICY, ASNAJ SAID HE
WOULD CALL IN LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE AND OFFERED
TO APPROACH YARG PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI TO SEND
MESSAGE TO YASSIR ARAFAT.

3. WHILE DESCRIBING THESE STEPS, ASNAJ WAS

RAPIDLY TURNING HIS NOTES ON MY TALK INTO A DOCUMENT OF SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS WHICH, IT APPEARED, HE INTENDED TO USE FOR THE BASIS FOR HIS APPROACH TO PLO AND POSSIBLE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO ARAFAT.

4. I WAS NOT COMPLETELY SURE OF HOW FAR ASNAJ WASD PREPARED TO GO IN RECOMMENDING OUR POSITION AND I THEREFORE VOLUNTEERED THAT WHAT WE WERE SEEKING FROM THE PLO WAS NO MORE THAN ACCEPTANCE OF TEMRS AND CONDITIONS WHICH ALMOST ALL OTHER ARAB STATES HAD ACCEPTED. THIS ALIGNMENT, I SAID, WOULD BENEFIT THE ARAB POSITION BY LESSENING DOUBTS ABOUT THE STATED ARAB WILLVKGNESS TO NEGOTIATE RATHER THAN PURSUE, PERHAPS AT SOME FUTURE TIME, ANOTHER CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY ISRAEL, AND IT WOULD ALSO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION OF ALL CONCERNED PARTIES IN THE SETTLEMENT EFFORT.

5. ASNAJ NODDED QUICKLY AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE YEMENI DESIRE WAS TO MOVE FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BOTH TO WEAKEN RADICAL AND SOVIET ELEMENTS IN HE AREA AND BRING A JUST AND DURABLE END TO A CONFLICT THAT HAD RAGED TOO LONG.

COMMENT: I BELIEVE ASNAJ DOES INTEND TO TRY TO
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HELP AND WHILE THE YARG IS HARDLY A MOVING FORCE IN THIS ISSUE, ITS VOICE ALIGNED WITH THAT OF OTHER MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE USG. THE FORCES FOR UNITY AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE ARABPOSITION ARE CUMULATIVE AND CLEARLY ASNAJ'S WILLINGNESS TO ACT IN AN AREA WHERE HE HAS ALWAYS TAKEN THE SAFE POLEMICAL POSITION IN THE PAST INDICATES THAT ARAB COOPERATION WITH US IN OTHER COUNTRIES HAS HAD ITS EFFECT HERE. ANOTHER VOICE ADDED TO THE CHOUS HAS TO BE HELPFUL.
RANSOM

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR CASWELL S/S-O.

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, YE, XF, PLO
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